

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 06370 051331Z

43 S

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 027505

O 051256Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9343

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6370

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ: TENNECO SIX

REF: STATE 117357

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AND I HAD LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH ACTING MINISTER OF INTERIOR DEMISSIE TEFFERA MORNING JUNE 5.

2. WITH REGARD IEG POLICY ON RETALIATION, I SOUGHT OBTAIN DEMISSIE'S APPROVAL OF STATEMENT ALONG LINES PARA 4 REFTEL THAT IEG WILL NOT PUNISH VILLAGERS AMIDST WHOM ELF AND HOSTAGES MAY HAVE BEEN LIVING. HE FIRMLY RESISTED SUCH LANGUAGE, ARGUING IT WOULD IMPLY (A) THAT IEG HAS BEEN IN HABIT OF PUNISHING VILLAGERS AND (B) THAT VILLAGERS IN QUESTION ARE UNDER PROTECTION OF ELF. DEMISSIE ACCEPTED, HOWEVER, FOLLOWING TEXT AND SAID IT CONSTITUTED A BINDING COMMITMENT ON PART OF IEG: "THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE NO ACTION WHICH MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE SPEEDY RELEASE OF THE TENNECO HOSTAGES AND IT WILL NOT ENGAGE AFTER THEIR RELEASE IN PURSUIT OF THOSE WHO HAVE HELD THEM. MOREOVER, IT WILL TAKE NO RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST THE GROUP BECAUSE OF THEIR HAVING HELD THE TENNECO HOSTAGES." I LEFT COPIES OF THIS STATEMENT WITH HIM BUT DID NOT ASK FOR A WRITTEN ASSURANCE WITH SAME WORDING. I BELIEVE HE WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 06370 051331Z

HAVE FELT THAT A REQUEST FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCE IMPUGNED GOOD

FAITH OF IEG.

3. SECOND MAJOR POINT I PURSUED IN DISCUSSION WITH DEMISSIE WAS ATTITUDE OF IEG TOWARD POSSIBLE RELEASE OF PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR TENNECO HOSTAGES. HE SAID THIS WAS A NEW REQUEST WHICH HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH PRIMIN. I SAID USG WAS INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING WHAT IEG THOUGHT IN PRINCIPLE OF PRISONER EXCHANGE. MOREOVER, IF IEG WAS WILLING EFFECT SOME EXCHANGE OF THAT NATURE, IT MIGHT CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF PASSING WORD BACK THROUGH ME TO TENNECO TO ELF THAT IT ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE IDEA OF PRISONER EXCHANGE. DEMISSIE'S COMMENTS SUGGESTED HE THOUGHT IEG WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS MATTER IN PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN TO ADDRESS DEMAND FOR SPECIFIC PRISONERS. I THEREFORE SUGGESTED IEG MIGHT WISH AUTHORIZE ME PASS WORD THROUGH TENNECO TO ELF THAT IEG COULD NOT ADDRESS ISSUE OF PRISONER EXCHANGE IN ABSENCE NAMES OF PRISONERS WHOSE RELEASE DEMANDED. DEMISSIE PROMISED ENDEAVOR OBTAIN OFFICIAL POSITION OF IEG ON ENTIRE ISSUE ASAP.

4. IT WAS OF COURSE AWKWARD TO DISCUSS TENNECO'S CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH DEMISSIE WITHOUT INDICATING WITH WHOM AND WHERE TENNECO IS NEGOTIATING. WHEN SECURITY CHIEF COLONEL SOLOMON KADIR FINALLY INQUIRED RE IDENTITY AND LOCATION OF GO-BETWEEN, I SAID I WAS UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION WHATSOEVER OF THIS NATURE. I EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT TENNECO WAS SATISFIED WITH RELIABILITY OF PRESENT GO-BETWEEN AND IS ANXIOUS PURSUE THIS CHANNEL. SOME OF DEMISSIE'S REMARKS SUGGESTED THAT IEG IS NOW SO SCEPTICAL REGARDING TENNECO'S EFFORTS THAT IT MIGHT PREFER HAVE GOVGEN OF ERITREA INITIATE NEW EFFORT CONTACT ELF THROUGH NEW CHANNEL. I TRIED PERSUADE DEMISSIE THAT IEG SHOULD PERMIT TENNECO MAKE FULL USE OF PRESENT GO-BETWEEN FOR TIME BEING.

5. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND CONFINED HIMSELF LARGELY TO BRIEFING DEMISSIE ON RELEASE OF WYATT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE WISH SEE CONTENTS OF LETTERS WHICH ASMARA POLICE CONFISCATED FROM WYATT YESTERDAY.

6. ATHENS AND KHARTOUM: PLEASE INFORM TENNECO REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREGOING.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 06370 051331Z

WYMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, HOSTAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS06370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740142-1014
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740675/aaaacmfr.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 117357
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENNECO SIX
TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET, ELF, TENNECO SIX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005